

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, YO
SUBJECT: KRSKO FUEL LICENSE ISSUE

REF: BELGRADE 4142

1. CROATIAN SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND CRAFTS, IVO BAUTOVIC, CALLED ME IN FOR A MEETING TODAY, MAY 26, TO TALK ABOUT THE KRSKO PROJECT AND IN PARTICULAR TO URGE USG ACTION TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE REQUIRED NUCLEAR FUEL. BAUTOVIC SAID THAT A COMPREHENSIVE YUGOSLAV RESPONSE WHICH HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE USG AND YUGOSLAVIA IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AMBASSADOR KLJUN.

2. BAUTOVIC REVIEWED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KRSKO NUCLEAR PROJECT FOR YUGOSLAVIA, STATING THAT IT CANNOT AFFORD THE LOSS OF FOUR AND A HALF BILLION KILOWATT HOURS PER YEAR OR THREE BILLION DINARS A YEAR WHICH WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL COST FOR YUGOSLAVIA PER YEAR OF DELAY. HE POINTED OUT THAT YUGOSLAVIA PLANS TO BUILD OTHER NUCLEAR PLANTS AND IN PARTICULAR A SECOND ONE IS PROJECTED FOR CROATIA. ALTHOUGH THE DECISION FOR THE LOCATION OF THE SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN, HE SAID IT WILL BE TAKEN PROBABLY BY THE
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END OF THIS YEAR. BUT, HE ADDED, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENS AT KRSKO. IF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES FROM THE U.S. ARE DOUBTFUL, AND IF THE KRSKO PROJECT FALTERS, THESE FACTORS WILL OBVIOUSLY AFFECT YUGOSLAVIA'S DECISION ON BUILDING THE NEXT NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

3. BAUTOVIC SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD NOTED THAT THE U.S.

HAS JUST RECENTLY APPROVED AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL TO BRAZIL, AND WONDERED WHY YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED. HE REPEATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA INTENDS TO USE NUCLEAR POWER FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY AND EARNESTLY HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD ACT FAVORABLY TO PROMOTE THE ISSUANCE OF THE REQUIRED EXPORT LICENSE SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE KRSKO PROJECT. (HE CLAIMED THAT WESTINGHOUSE WAS USING THE FAILURE TO GET AN EXPORT LICENSE AS A "FORMAL EXCUSE" FOR DELAYS AT KRSKO.)

4. COMMENT: BAUTOVIC MADE IT CLEAR THAT I HAD BEEN CALLED IN TO HELP EMPHASIZE THE DESIRABILITY OF ACTING EXPEDITIOUSLY AND ACCOMMODATINGLY TO THE NEW YUGOSLAV PROPOSALS WHICH HE CLAIMED WOULD COVER ALL THE OUTSTANDING POINTS TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH COUNTRIES. KAISER

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Message Attributes

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